



Haveley Hey Community School. Growing Outside.

Tuesday 7th January 2024

Weather: Cold, wet and snowing throughout the day.

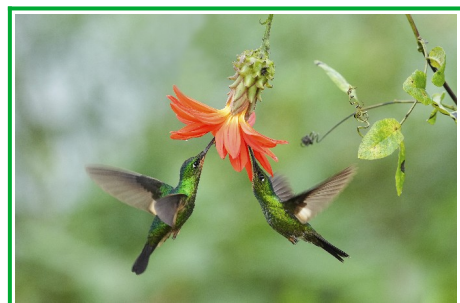
Growing Outside

Children: Year 5.

Bird Food Kebabs.

Today Year 5 joined me in the allotment, for Growing Outside. We were learning about birds. Birds are incredibly important. They are a very important part of the food chain.

Birds like to eat insects and bugs, stopping them damaging crops and spreading diseases amongst plants. They also help to disperse seeds; by eating berries and pooping their seeds as they fly around! Some birds also drink nectar and help with pollination. It is Winter so many birds have flown to warmer countries. Food is scarce and it can get very cold. A few birds stay behind enjoying the peace, these include Robins, Pigeons, Magpies, Blackbirds



and Gulls. There were some very large gulls on the school field.

Unfortunately humans destroy a lot of birds habitats and food supplies. We chop down trees, make roads and build houses. In the last 60 years their has been a loss of approximately 38million birds! 60 years is a long time, but that is a loss of over half a million birds every year!

To help the birds the children were going to make some bird food kebabs. They were going to thread different food onto florist wire. First we had a look at the different food I had brought in.





There was cheese, brown bread, raisins, apple, cheerios, sweetcorn and dried cranberries. The cheese has lots of fat in it which will give the birds lots of energy to stay warm through Winter. The bread and cheerios are full of grains which are very healthy like the fruit and sweetcorn. Some of the children thought it looked like a



little picnic and had to resist eating it!

Year 5 worked in small groups, to chop the food into small pieces. They then threaded it onto the wire, bent them into circles or left them straight. They then hung them from different trees. They needed to be high enough so that the foxes and cats didn't eat them. Some children took theirs home to hang in their



gardens. They need to make sure they are high enough so any dogs can't reach them, as raisins can make dogs poorly. Any left over food was scattered around the allotment or one of the bug hotels.



At the end of this month the RSPB is asking everyone to take part in BIRDWATCH. People are asked to spend an hour in their gardens and record and birds that visit, so the RSPB can record their numbers. You can download and print a sheet from the RSPB website. It was snowing quite heavy at times, so only one group were able to record any birds. But many of the children had a turn looking through some binoculars and we did spot some birds far away in some tall trees.

Well done Year 5 for the great work, despite they very cold and frosty weather.

Dawn.